

*Summer beckons*

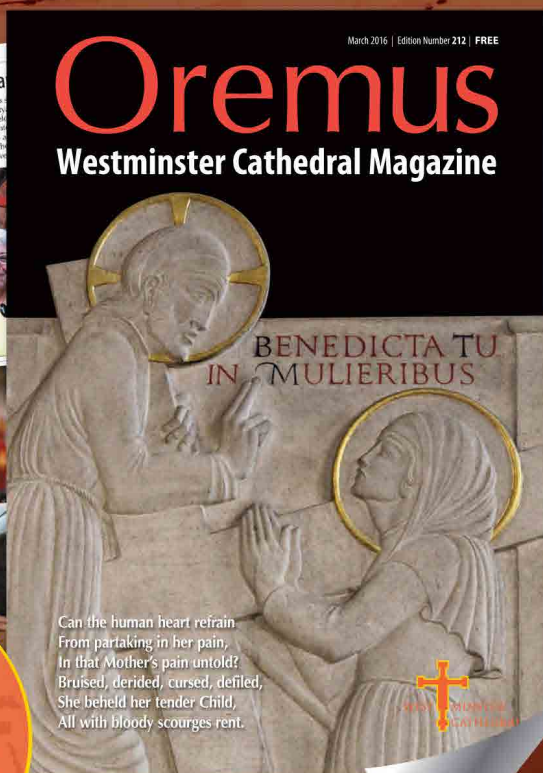
# Oremus

## Westminster Cathedral's Magazine

A quality publication offering intelligent, informative and interesting articles aimed at Catholics and non-Catholics alike, as well as all those who visit and worship at the mother church of England & Wales



**Oremus is an  
official publication  
of Westminster  
Cathedral.  
Published monthly,  
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## Dear Friends of Westminster Cathedral

In the last issue of the Friends' newsletter, I wrote principally about the late Cardinal Cormac and we were privileged to be able to reprint the homily delivered by Archbishop Stack at his funeral Mass. Today I write on this Friday in Easter week in the afterglow of a very holy and blessed Holy Week and Triduum.

The Easter ceremonies went as smoothly as any I have ever attended and were accompanied by outstanding music from Martin Baker and the Cathedral choir; and we were enriched by some very inspiring homilies from Cardinal Vincent. In the brief time that there was for reflection, I thought again of how much the presentation of worship at the Cathedral depends on such a wide variety of people. The music I have already referred to, and those of you who attend the Cathedral will know how good it is, but so much of the planning and preparation depends on the Precentor, Fr Andrew Gallagher; and on the Cathedral's Master of Ceremonies, Paul Moynihan.

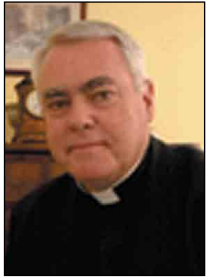
Together, they prepare and rehearse all who are to have a role in the execution of the liturgy; some of whom are experienced men and women of many years' standing as altar servers, and others of whom are small children attending the Triduum for the first time. Seeing them all carrying out their duties with devotion and eagerness made me conscious of how much we owe to them and indeed to all our volunteers. When people congratulate me on the efficient and spiritual way in which things are done in the Cathedral I am happy to acknowledge the place of teamwork and this, I feel, is a major aspect of all that we do here. Just occasionally, I do relish a little personal satisfaction in complimentary remarks!

As we are now experiencing the first proper sunlight of spring may I wish you every blessing for a good summer and thank you, the Friends, for your continued support and prayers for our Cathedral.

With every blessing,

**Canon Christopher Tuckwell**

**Cathedral Administrator and Chairman of the Friends of Westminster Cathedral**



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Telephone: **0207 798 9059** Email: [friends@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:friends@rcdow.org.uk) Charity number: 272899

The Council: Canon Christopher Tuckwell, Chairman; Andrew Sanders, Vice-Chairman; Andrew Hollingsworth, Treasurer; assisted by Joseph Bonner, Oliver Davey, Elizabeth Gibson, Zoe Goodway, Nicholas Morrell and Euphrasie Mundeke-Kilolo. The Council is aided by Barry Lock chairman of the Mosaics Appeal Group and Linda McHugh chair of the Hall Appeal Committee. Christina White, Director.

# ...Looking back

Our autumn and winter events were of course overshadowed by the deaths of Cardinal Cormac Murphy-O'Connor, former Archbishop of Westminster, and Patrick Rogers, the Cathedral Historian. The Friends benefitted greatly from Patrick's expertise and he was always ready to share his knowledge with visiting groups. We missed his enthusiasm and love for the Cathedral in planning the autumn programme. I will personally always remember Cardinal Cormac stepping into the breach to welcome the pianist Stephen Hough to the Cathedral for a recital in front of a massive artwork by Peter Doig. The Cardinal greatly enjoyed the evening – the piano was one of his great passions.

We started our autumn programme with the ubiquitous quiz and fish and chip supper, the last one of the year. Our thanks to Mary Maxwell for her continued support of these quizzes, and indeed, for allowing us to branch out with a quiz and curry night later in the year. Do not fear the fish and chip quiz will return...



On 11 October the Friends met in Twickenham for a private tour of Marble Hill House – the former home of Henrietta Howard, Countess of Suffolk and confidant and more of King George II. It was drizzling when we walked across the park to the house and indeed



when we made our way to the excellent Marble Hill café where we had a quiche and salad lunch arranged. There was free time after lunch to explore the grounds of Marble Hill and for once, we were obliged with a clear afternoon. I headed towards the river and found the hidden grotto, reminiscent of Pope's construction further up river. The group convened and meandered up towards JMW Turner's House – our destination for the afternoon, but we were constantly distracted by the blue plaques. This part of London was a haven for writers, poets and princes.

Turner's House has undergone an extensive programme of renovation and you could smell the fresh paint as we toured the small Italianate villa. We were fortunate to have the architect with us who oversaw the renovation, including the slightly



controversial removal of a later wing to reveal the original proportions of the house. He gave us a fascinating tour, full of detail and architectural commentary. If you love Turner a visit to his Twickenham house is highly recommended. It somehow gave us a more intimate perspective on his character that belied those grandiose and dramatic canvasses.

On 31 October we travelled to East Hendred to visit Hendred House, home to the Eyston family for over 800 years where Canon Christopher celebrated Mass in the historic family chapel. The date coincided with widespread celebrations of the Reformation, marking the 500th anniversary of Luther nailing his 95 theses to the door of the church in Wittenberg. Our commemoration was very different and Canon Christopher movingly prayed for all victims of religious persecution.



After Mass and a tour of the house, which included seeing the drinking cup of

St Thomas More

and the staff of

St John Fisher; we

walked to the

village church in

East Hendred

before meeting at

the Eyston Arms

for lunch. Suitably

replenished we got

back on the coach

and continued on

to the village of

Milton to visit the

parish church of



St Blaise. This was the first resting place of the Cathedral's Bishop Challoner before the removal of his remains in 1946. Milton Manor also has a wonderful chapel where Challoner celebrated Mass and the family has vestments and a chalice that belonged to the good Bishop on display. We spent a very happy half hour at Milton feeding the ponies at the house – an unexpected delight.

## Past Events

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November, a month of remembrance, and a timely performance of Mozart's sublime Requiem. I invited Professor Tim Jones of the Royal Academy of Music to the Cathedral for a pre-concert talk in the Clergy House Library. This is the second talk that we have arranged to complement one of the choir's concerts and it was very successful.



Tim was travelling to China the next morning to review talented musicians for the Academy so we were very grateful to him giving his time and expertise. It was a fascinating talk that brought together all the influences on Mozart's music and underlined the passion and piety behind the work.

I was unable to attend the tour of Tate Modern on 10 November but Paul Paul Pickering gave the group a most interesting afternoon followed by tea. Our sincere commiserations to Anne Bond who took rather a tumble at the gallery. We hope you are feeling much better now.

I missed the art gallery tour in preparation for the Friends' black tie dinner on 14 November with our guest speaker, the Hon Jacob Rees-Mogg MP. Our venue was the lovely Naval and Military Club in St James's which was chosen for its proximity to the House of Commons. The powers that be chose the 14th for the Brexit debate. Mr Rees-Mogg was key to all the proceedings and gamely dashed to the club to give his



speech – pre-dinner – before returning to the House. It was a masterful display of erudition, faith and fellowship. He left all the guests with a greater sense of optimism for the future. Our thanks must go to all the generous donors who came up with some splendid auction prizes including Steiff and



their lovely Royal Wedding Anniversary Bear and Ali Eyston and her beautiful silk scarf. Ali has a rather splendid website called [filthyweather.com](http://filthyweather.com) which seems rather appropriate given the never-ending winter. It comes highly recommended.

On to a glorious winter's day in November; and our Friends'day trip to Waddesdon Manor and its Christmas Fair. Waddesdon was the country house of the Rothschild family and it is a spectacular sight – a French chateau in beautiful English countryside. I must thank Berenice Roetheli and Val Hamblen for recommending this trip. The house is specially decorated at Christmas and we moved from room to glorious room with all manner of Christmas decorations and beautifully bedecked trees. The Christmas fair is laid out in front of the house and the group had plenty of time to peruse the numerous stalls and make some pre-Christmas purchases. There was all manner of food and drink on sale not to mention the rather splendid Rothschild Chateau Lafites in the Manor shop. It was such a beautiful day that many in the group chose to walk back to the coach park. There was much clinking of bottles in the coach on the way home.



Giles Tremlett finally made it to the Cathedral in November for his long-awaited talk on Isabella of Castille. He gave an informative and entertaining account of her often controversial life. She was a figure not to be messed with nor forgotten. Friends gathered to have their books signed and to have a glass of wine with Giles.

In December the Clergy House Dining Room again played host to the donors to our Big Give campaign. By all accounts it was an enjoyable evening – our thanks must go to all those who gave so generously to the fund. In the Friends' 40th anniversary year over £40,000 was raised towards the Hall project.

December was really about the countdown to the Christmas Fair and we sold Christmas puddings and raffle tickets in the run up to the event on 10 December.







As many of you know we were hit by the snow that enveloped London and the Home Counties that Sunday. Thank you to all the helpers and the visitors who braved the weather and came to support the Cathedral. We still have unclaimed raffle prizes from the fair – please do check and see if you are on the list of names at the end of the page!

Our winter events programme extended into February with our very first quiz and curry night. Guests had poppadoms and



chutneys on the tables with all manner of exciting beers to add to the usual wine selection. Claudette Brown from the Passage produced a selection of delicious curries. Our thanks to Barbara – our quiz setter – and to Canon Christopher – our quiz master – who kept the proceedings in order.

Claudette again came to our rescue in March with the catering at our St Patrick's Night event. Diners enjoyed the music from Malarkey (the newly formed Black Velvet) and a stunning display of traditional Irish dancing from former world champion Jan Gaca. We had a wonderful 'A' team of volunteers who helped to set up the Hall in the morning and came back to help at the event in the evening. A happy and enjoyable occasion with shamrock and an Irish Grand Slam win to boot. *Christina White*

### Unclaimed Raffle Prizes from the Christmas Fair:

**1st Prize** - Night at the Goring: Ticket no: **14011** Gancz

**2nd prize** - Pax Travel Voucher: Ticket no: **13517** Tickell

**8th Prize** - Tea for 2 at St Ermin's Hotel: Ticket no: **11928** Bosacoma

**12th Prize** - Tea for 2 at the Rubens Hotel: Ticket no: **13160** Wimbush



# Looking *forward*...



Our first event of the summer is our trip to Oxford on 17 April. A delay in getting the newsletter to you has meant that we have had limited publicity for this – though a mention in Oremus and the weekly newsletter has meant that we already have half a coach booked. Please do call on receipt of the newsletter if you want to come on the trip.

The Oxford day will start with a private tour of Christchurch College including the gardens. Canon Christopher will be celebrating Mass in the Cathedral and then we have lunch booked at The Trout in Wolvercote – a beloved watering hole

of the fictional Chief Inspector Morse. In the afternoon we travel on to Headington for a guided tour of the Kilns, the Oxford home of writer and academic CS Lewis. The house is open for limited tours and is generally used by scholars interested in the work of the writer of Narnia stories and much, much more.

On 10 May we have a day trip closer to home with a visit to Greenwich with Paul Pickering to see the restored Queen's House. We will walk across the park for Mass at the church of Our Lady Star of the Sea and then it is free time in Greenwich for lunch until we convene at the Fan Museum

## Forthcoming Events: *Spring/Summer* 2018

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at 2.30pm where we have a guided tour followed by tea. Numbers are limited for this trip so you are advised to book early. Please phone in advance to confirm that we still have tickets available. There will be a lot of walking involved and Friends are asked to make their own way to and from Greenwich.

The Dean of Southwark Cathedral has offered us a private evening tour of Southwark Cathedral on 15 May. We will be arriving at 5.15pm for Evensong at 5.30pm. The tour will commence thereafter. Refreshments have been arranged at a local hostelry after the tour. En route to the wine bar we will be visiting the Crossbones garden – a charity project supported by Joseph Bonner one of our current trustees. Please note that you will have to make your own way to and from Southwark.



Many of you will have been to see *The Darkest Hour*, Joe Wright's film about the build-up to the Second World War.

We have a trip to Chartwell – Churchill's beloved country retreat – arranged for the 23 May. Interest in the house is at an all-time high so our slots for seeing the house are at 1.30pm and 1.40pm. There is an option to walk the gardens beforehand and also to see Churchill's artist's studio which opens at 12pm. Later in the afternoon we travel on to the picturesque village of Westerham to visit Quebec House – the childhood home of Colonel Wolfe. We will have afternoon tea in the village before



departing for London. Please bring a packed lunch alternatively there is a café on site at Chartwell. Given the timings for our house entry there will not be a lot of time for lunch but we hope that this is recompensed by the slightly later start time of 9am.

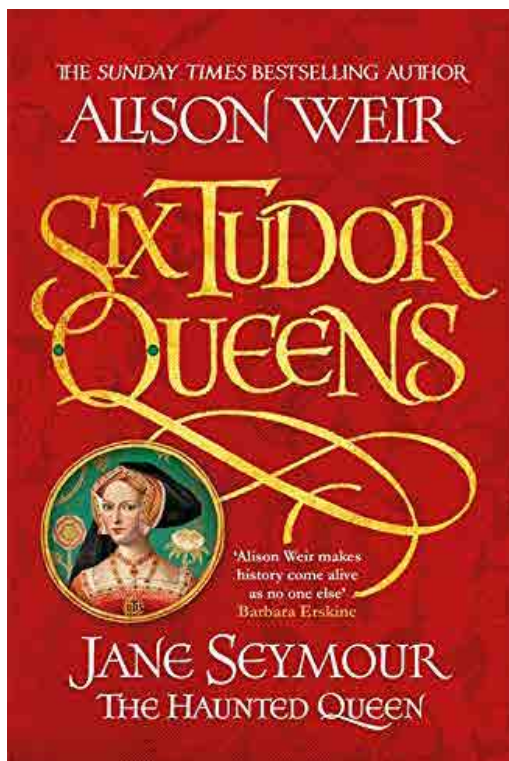


The summer party is at Allen Hall on 21 June – Midsummer Day, so we hope the god of sunshine will be sympathetic. Our theme is an Italian Summer – with an appropriately themed BBQ and complimentary drink on arrival. There will be musical entertainment. Allen Hall is a special place and even more so on a summer's evening.

Mary Maxwell has heard the clamouring for fish and chips and is organising a quiz and fish and chip supper on 26 June. This will be the only quiz of the summer so please get your tables and fellow quizzers organised.

The following day the hall will be cleared for a very special event – Lady Antonia Fraser in conversation with Professor Andrew Sanders, vice-chairman of the Friends. She will be talking about her new book: *The King and The Catholics*. Copies of the book will be on sale with a drinks reception to follow. You will find a review of the book on Page 10 of this newsletter.





July sees the very welcome return of Alison Weir to the Cathedral with the latest book in her wives of Henry VIII series: Jane Seymour – The Haunted Queen. Alison has been such a strong supporter

of the Cathedral and promised to return last year. Many of you came for the Anne Boleyn talk and you were there in even greater number for Katherine of Aragon. Jane is a much more sympathetic character

for Catholics but she too was forced to tread a perilous path. There has been widespread acclaim for the two previous volumes in the series and the latest book promises to be a wonderful addition to the canon. Alison is a marvellous speaker and this will be a fascinating evening – Jane was preparing for her wedding to the King just 11 days after the execution of Anne. There will be a drinks reception to follow; Alison will also be around for book signing and historical chat.

In September we have arranged an afternoon tour of the House of Commons and the House of Lords with Paul Pickering. This will be the last parliament tour that Paul conducts for the Friends. All visitors are asked to meet at the Cromwell Green Visitor Entrance on St Margaret Street. From



there, we will make our way to Westminster Hall, to meet Paul and begin the tour. Again numbers are limited and we do expect this to sell out very quickly so you are advised to call in advance.

Our curry and quiz night was such a success in February that we decided to arrange another evening. There will be dips and poppadoms on the tables, and beer and wine on sale. Claudette proved again that she is a cook of many talents with her delicious curry supper. Please note that table sizes for the Curry Quiz are limited to a maximum of eight people – this makes it much easier for distributing the starters. Please indicate when booking whether you require the lamb, chicken or vegetarian option.

Our thanks to Elizabeth Gibson for kindly arranging our evening visit to The Speaker's House on 23 October. The Rt Hon John Bercow will be present to welcome us to the residence. Booking for this event is only via the enclosed leaflet which explains the levels of sponsorship available. There will be a Friends' anniversary brochure and a memento of the evening. We have to give a list of guest names to Speaker's House in plenty of time so there will be no last-minute bookings for the event.

Please do keep an eye on the Cathedral website and/or the Cathedral newsletter. Occasionally we get the offer of trips, tours and talks which fall outside the timing for the newsletters. Alternatively do let us have your email for regular event updates. Enjoy the summer.

# The King And The Catholics

The Fight For Rights 1829 By Antonia Fraser



© Sue Greenhill

**The story of Catholic Emancipation begins with blood: the violent Anti-Catholic Gordon Riots in 1780, fuelled by the reduction in Penal Laws against the Roman Catholics**

harking back to the sixteenth century. Some fifty years later, the passing of the Emancipation Bill was hailed as a 'bloodless revolution'. However, some jobs remained barred to Catholics, and the King (or Queen) would always be a Protestant.

Had the Irish Catholics been a 'millstone', as described by an English aristocrat, or were they the prime movers? While the English Catholic aristocracy and the Irish peasants and merchants approached the Catholic Question in very different ways, they manifestly shared the same objective.

*The King and the Catholics* is gripping character-driven narrative history at its very best; the story of individuals who are by turns flawed and admirable: George III, who opposed Emancipation on the basis of the Coronation Oath; his son, the indulgent Prince of Wales, who was enamoured with the Catholic Maria Fitzherbert before the voluptuous Lady Conyngham; Wellington

and the 'born Tory' Peel vying for leadership; 'roaring' Lord Winchilsea; the heroic Daniel O'Connell.

Antonia Fraser invests humanity in a huge cast of characters, and brings colour and humour to the vivid drama. We witness the arrival on Shoreham Beach of displaced nuns fleeing revolutionary France, the sensational libel trial of John Magee, the first Royal visit to Ireland since Richard II in 1399, and a duel between Prime Minister Wellington and Lord Winchilsea.

Expertly written and deftly argued, *The King and Catholics* is also a distant mirror of our times, reflecting the political issues arising from religious intolerance.

Antonia Fraser is the author of many widely acclaimed historical works which have been international bestsellers. The prizes she has won include the Wolfson Award for History and the Norton Medlicott Medal of the Historical Association. She has been President of English PEN, chairman of the Society of Authors, and chairman of the Crime Writers' Association.

Antonia Fraser was made a DBE in 2011 and a CH in 2018 for services to Literature. She was married to Harold Pinter who died in 2008. Her previous books include: *Mary Queen of Scots* and *The Gunpowder Plot: Terror and Faith in 1605*.

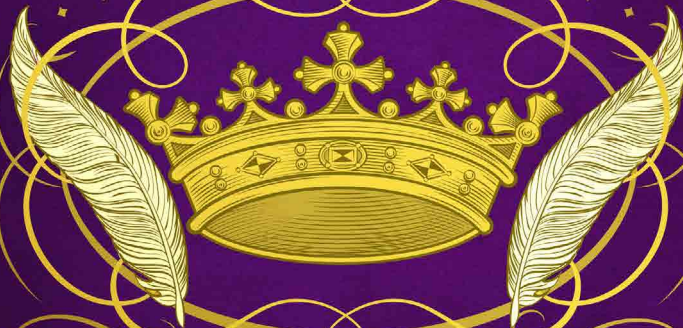
Lady Antonia will be in conversation with Professor Andrew Sanders on Wednesday 27 June.



# THE KING AND THE CATHOLICS

The Fight for Rights

1829



# ANTONIA FRASER

# A Gentle Man

In 1980, Westminster Cathedral suffered from a particularly critical bout of financial problems. So much so that a decision had been taken to close the Choir School in an effort to save money. Letters had already gone to the parents of boys at the school who quite naturally raised their voices in protest. Amongst other interested parties who had a love of the Cathedral music and who could not imagine the liturgy without it, was Kenneth Wagg who had the idea of forming a Friends society to raise funds for the Cathedral and in so doing to forestall the closure of the School. He immediately approached his wide circle of contacts with a view to forming a fund raising committee under the chairmanship of the Duke of Norfolk. This eventually led to the formation of "The Society of Friends of Westminster Cathedral.

John Poland and I were among those asked by Kenneth to join his committee. Kenneth was a man of immense charm who could not be resisted. John had many other commitments but willingly took up the chairmanship of the Friends following the duke and asked me to become the treasurer, a job I did with pleasure for more than fifteen years. The pleasure one derived from that job had more to do with the regular contact one had with John than anything else. He was, without doubt the kindest and most

gentle man one had ever met. Out of our joint involvement with the Cathedral sprang a friendship I shall always treasure. We regularly had dinner together at Gran Paradiso after Cathedral events; my wife, Valerie and I often stayed with John at his house in West Wittering where I sailed with him, particularly after his children had vetoed his sailing alone.

There is one cricket story to add to the many that others will want to tell; Valerie had developed an interest in cricket, largely from listening to Test Match Special on the radio. Her understanding of the game was slightly hampered by her lack of understanding of fielding positions. John was aware of this and on occasion invited Valerie to the Oval to watch cricket from the vantage point of the Committee room. One evening, we were at dinner at Gran Paradiso; at the next table, were the Bedser twins. Valerie was introduced and the story of fielding positions came out. One of the brothers immediately took a paper napkin and began to draw the positions. Valerie has kept this paper with her since then but has always regretted that she did not ask for a signature.

Dear John, how deeply you will be missed, and by so many. A gentle, generous, giant of a man; he will remain forever in my memory and in my prayers.

**Robin Shearmur**

# Cricket and the Cathedral

**John Poland was not the instigator of our summer holidays in The Witterings, but it was happy coincidence to find that he was there and living a mere hop, skip and small boy jump from the sands.**

I met John very soon after starting work at the Cathedral. As a former Chairman of the Friends (he was chairman for over 20 years) he took a lively interest in the work of the Society. 'We never spent any money,' he used to tell me. 'We liked to let it just accumulate.'

In John's day, the Friends operated out of a portacabin in the Clergy House courtyard. He was here for the visit of the Queen in 1995 and Pope John Paul II in 1982. Under his guidance, the Friends paid for the commemorative plaque at the foot of the Sanctuary steps and I think he was pleased when we continued the tradition, paying for the plaque that commemorated the visit of Pope Benedict XVI to the Cathedral in 2010.

Under John's influence the Friends flourished. He was always interested in people, especially keen to talk sailing and cricket, and had the perfect combination of good business acumen with a stylish English wit.

Our letters to each other usually referenced the woes of the England batting average and on more than one occasion he sent tickets so that my sons could see England play at the Oval.

Whilst on holiday I would always see John at Mass on Sunday morning in East Wittering. The small congregation of the little church of St Peter's was swelled by the summer influx of tourists. We were there in our summer sandals, feet gritty from the coarse sand of

the bay, shoulders burned from too long on the beach. John, rakishly tall, suntanned, a larger than life character; would be there handing out hymn books. A central figure in the coastal community that he so loved.

The first time I visited The Witterings, my sons were very young. We had arrived by train with limited kit and John immediately lent us a surfboard which was a source of great enjoyment. We returned the board the evening before we left, propping it in the back garden.

I knew John was in poor health and last year we prayed for him at the Friends' AGM and I sent him the Order of Service from the Friends' Anniversary Mass. His daughter wrote back and said he was thrilled to be remembered. He loved to hear news of the Cathedral and especially of the Friends.

It was too sad to come back to work after Easter and learn that he had died. For many years John kept a flat in London and I would often see him at Mass in the Cathedral. He loved this building of brick, and stone and mosaic, as much as he loved his beloved Witterings, and the wide sweep of its bay with promise of good sailing on the Solent. We will return to The Witterings again this summer and will walk the length of the beach, and we will remember him. A good and kindly man.

The Friends will be organising a Memorial Mass to remember John later in the year. Details of this will be in the autumn newsletter but please keep him and his family in your prayers. May he rest in peace.

**Christina White**





# Mosaics update

## *Dear Friends of Cathedral Mosaics*

At long last we have a collection box in St Patrick's Chapel. Our seed corn fund for the mosaics project is building up gradually but I acknowledge that without a design it is hard to garner great enthusiasm but we will press on. The choice of design and indeed designer is for the Art and Architecture Committee and we must wait for their deliberations. The design for St David was very well received and every time I walk past in the Cathedral I reflect on the success of the scheme. The decision to place St David squarely on his rustic plinth of Welsh stone was inspired.

Now that St George's Chapel is complete and complemented by the improved lighting scheme it has brought colour and light to that side of the Cathedral. We are waiting for the Historic Churches Committee to give their final approval to the donors' plaque which will be placed in the floor of St George's Chapel. It has taken time for us to come to this point but bear with us. There will be a Mass of thanksgiving and a Reception for the major donors when the commemorative stone is in place. There was a time when it seemed as though we would never reach the £500,000 target for the chapel but with your generosity the target was reached – a fitting monument given that this year marks the 100th anniversary of the end of the First World War.

I made a brief visit to the Friends' St Patrick's Night evening and it was good to see the bonhomie in celebrating Ireland's premier saint. I hope that the same spirit will carry us through in raising funds for the mosaic decoration of the chapel. The Cathedral Manager Peter McNulty has already expressed his support for the project and brings with him to the Cathedral good contacts in the Irish community at home and abroad. It will be interesting to see what design the A & A finally agrees upon.

Thank you for your on-going support for mosaics in the Cathedral. Please do pop a donation in the collection box for St Patrick or send your cheque donation payable to: The Friends of Westminster Cathedral. We know from experience that we have to build up a good foundation of funds to encourage people to give more. The Friends have helped to transform the mosaic decoration of the Cathedral – long may it continue.

With my thanks for your support and prayers,

**Barry DS Lock**  
Chairman of the Friends' Mosaic Committee



# Eagles Flying High



We were delighted to learn recently that Jamie and Casey Martin – the Mayfair jewellers who made our tower eagle pendants – have been awarded membership of The Institute of Professional Goldsmiths (IPG). Jamie was also awarded a Fellowship.

The IPG is an organisation that promotes and supports craftspeople of the highest calibre. There are only 200 members worldwide and membership denotes recognition of the finest workmanship. The 'eagle' project was a key part of the brothers' submission to the IPG and it's lovely to think that the Friends might have helped in some small way.

Jamie said: 'It was such an interesting project that it was an obvious choice for our submission. We were involved right at the beginning so we felt the eagle pendant showed the full design process.'

The initial design was carved in wax though a lot of the detail was added later by hand when the mould was cast.



The solid silver eagle pendants were a strictly limited commission to help raise funds for the Friends' Tower Appeal which funded the refurbishment of the Tower Lift and Viewing Gallery. John Daly, our former Cathedral Manager, and Jamie Martin bravely scaled the heights of the Tower for a closer view of the eagles in all their solemn glory.

The Gallery has recently been opened again to the public after extensive refurbishment. We are awaiting the installation of a plaque to commemorate the names of

all the major donors to the appeal, plus some new information boards which will tell the story of the Tower. It was a wonderful project for the Friends to support.

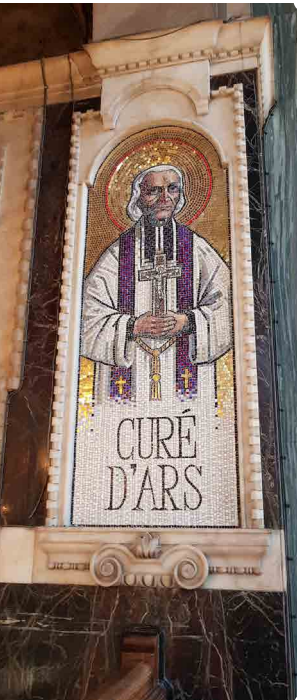
Eagle pendants are still available in the shop, priced £150: a unique and very special Cathedral gift. All proceeds go towards the Friends of Westminster Cathedral.





# The Cathedral in Easter Week

We received a letter recently from a lady in Ireland who said how much she enjoyed receiving the newsletter from the Friends with news of the Cathedral. It occurred to me that we rarely show pictures of the Cathedral as it now is – much has changed – and so I took my camera in on a sunny Friday afternoon. What a pity that a picture cannot convey the scent of the lilies in the Easter flowers. The heart image part of an art installation project in London in February; a love-in for the city, designed by Anya Hindmarsh.





## *For the Diary: Calendar April – October*

**Tuesday 17 April: Oxford: Christchurch and CS Lewis's House at Headington.** A day trip to the beautiful Christchurch College in Oxford: the alma mater of St Thomas More. We have a tour of the college booked and then Canon Christopher will be celebrating Mass in Christchurch Cathedral. The coach will then take the group for lunch at The Trout at Godstow – a beautiful waterside inn and a favourite watering-hole of the fictional Inspector Morse. After lunch, we head for The Kilns – CS Lewis's house in Headington for a guided tour with a Lewis academic. Please note that there will be a fair degree of walking involved as the coach cannot drop us directly at Christchurch. Lunch is included in the ticket price. The coach will depart from Clergy House at 8.30am. Ticket price: £52.00

**Thursday 10 May: The Queen's House at Greenwich and the Fan Museum.** A day-trip to Greenwich in the company of Paul Pickering: the group will meet at The Queen's House at 10am for a tour of the newly-restored palace. We will then walk across Greenwich Park to the church of Our Lady Star of the Sea for Mass. There will be free time in Greenwich for lunch before the group meets at the Fan Museum at 2.30pm for a guided tour followed by afternoon tea which is included in the ticket price. Numbers for this event are limited to 25 maximum so you are advised to book early. Ticket price: £26.00

**Tuesday 15 May: Evensong at Southwark Cathedral followed by a private tour with the Dean and a drinks reception.** Meet at Southwark at 5/5.15pm for Evensong at 5.30pm. Ticket price: £30.00

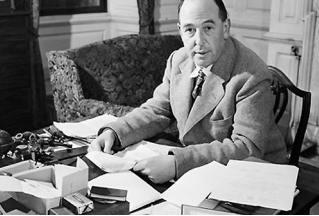
**Wednesday 23 May: Chartwell trip. A day trip to Chartwell - the country house of Winston Churchill.** On arrival at Chartwell there will be free time to walk in the gardens and visit Churchill's studio which opens at 12pm. Free time for lunch and then we have two slots for visiting the house at 1.30pm and 1.40pm. We will travel on to Westerham for a tour of Quebec House - the childhood home of Colonel Wolfe - at 3.30pm followed by tea in the village, before leaving for London at 4.15pm. Ticket price: £48.00

**Wednesday 20 June: Society of Friends of Westminster Cathedral AGM in Westminster Cathedral Hall at 6.30pm.** Please note that the AGM is a Friends-only event.

**Thursday 21 June: Summer Party Italian BBQ in the beautiful gardens of Allen Hall with complimentary drink on arrival and musical entertainment.** 6.30pm. Ticket price £35.00.

**Tuesday 26 June: Quiz and Fish and Chip Supper in the Cathedral Hall.** Doors open at 6.30pm. Ticket price £15.00

**Wednesday 27 June: The King and The Catholics: The Fight for Rights 1829.** We are delighted to announce a very special event in the Cathedral Hall. Lady Antonia Fraser will be in discussion with our Vice-Chairman Professor Andrew Sanders talking about her latest book: *The King and The Catholics*. Copies of the book will be on sale and there will be a drinks reception to follow. Doors open at 6.30pm. The talk will commence at 7pm. Ticket price: £10.00



# END POINT



## 2018

**Thursday 5 July: Alison Weir:** Jane Seymour Talk in the Hall with Power point presentation, drinks reception and book signing to follow. Doors will open at 6.30pm and the talk will commence at 7.15pm. Ticket price: £10.00

**Friday 14 September: A tour of the House of Commons and the House of Lords with Paul Pickering.** With changes to the guiding regulations in Parliament this will be Paul's last Parliament tour for us. Ticket price: £25.00

**Tuesday 9 October: Quiz and Curry Night.** The curry quiz returns with Indian lager and Guinness on sale. There will be a choice of menus again so please indicate when booking which food option you require: lamb korma, vegetarian biryani or chicken Madras. Poppadoms and dips on the tables. Please note that for the Curry Quiz we stipulate a maximum table size of eight people. Doors open at 6.30pm. Ticket price: £18.00

**Tuesday 23 October: The Speaker's House.** Full details of this very special event are in the accompanying leaflet. Please note that you must be a fully paid-up member of the Friends to join the evening reception.

For detailed information on all the events listed please ring the Friends' Office on: **0207 798 9059.**

Regular updates are also posted on the Cathedral website [www.westminstercathedral.org.uk](http://www.westminstercathedral.org.uk), in the weekly Cathedral parish newsletter and on the Friends' Facebook page.

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Your Friends' spring newsletter is slightly later this year as we waited to confirm the details for our Speaker's House event in October. It is a great honour to be invited and my thanks must go to Elizabeth Gibson for helping to organise this very special evening in honour of the Friends' 40th anniversary.

Endpoint does seem to be a place of reflection these days. I was so sorry to hear the news of John Poland's death in March. As we have mentioned, there will be a Memorial Mass for John in the Cathedral with a reception to follow and further details will be in the autumn newsletter. One of the last things that John did was to send money for the Tower Appeal. As I write, the architect is finalising details for the plaque with donors' names. It is fitting that John should be part of this tribute. The main works on the Tower Viewing Gallery have now been completed and it is again open to the public.

We have wittered on about the database and at long last we have a working solution which will be put into effect in the coming weeks. The new system will mean that we are compliant for both the purposes of existing data protection rules and the forthcoming changes under GDPR which are effective from May 25. Our old database, together with its operator, have been somewhat ground under. It simply wasn't producing the reminder letters (one or two per month) so please don't be surprised to get a letter from us in the coming weeks with a gentle reminder to renew your subscription. Please do fill in the Standing Order form – it makes it so much easier.

There will be more details about the GDPR regulations, a privacy notice, and an updated form for members to fill in with the AGM mailing.

A final 'thank you' to all the volunteers who have helped over the last six months; the Friends would not function without you.

I hope you enjoy the events which we have arranged for 2018.





*St Joseph's Mass in Lourdes during the Westminster  
Lourdes Pilgrimage*

Support our work which enables people with learning difficulties  
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**Reg Charity No. 233699 Director: John Coleby**